



**Brief for Pacific Island Countries  
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification  
Tenth Conference of the Parties  
10 – 21 October, 2011  
Gyeongnam, Korea**

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### Introduction

This briefing document (the **Pacific Island Brief**) has been prepared for the Pacific Island Countries that are parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (**UNCCD**), as requested at the Pacific regional UNCCD COP10 preparatory workshop held at Nadi, Fiji from 29th August to 2nd September 2011. The brief will provide substantive information about the key agenda items for COP10 and propose possible positions for the Pacific Island Countries to take forward to the COP. The positions proposed in the brief are purely recommendations. It is ultimately the parties that decide whether to accept, modify or reject the proposed positions.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) has engaged a consultant – Environmental Defenders Office NSW to assist with the preparation of this brief. The first draft of the brief was circulated to all SPREP member countries and partners for review. The submissions received in response were taken into account when drafting the final version of the Pacific Island Brief.

This brief does not attempt to address all the issues that may arise at COP10. The purpose of the brief is to provide an overview of the key priority issues that relevant to the Pacific Island Countries to enable them to reach a common position with respect to priority issues that may wish to negotiate at CST10, CRIC10 and COP10. Issues that are of national interest, but not regional interest, may be pursued by countries individually.

### Background to the UNCCD

The need for a convention tackling desertification<sup>1</sup> was identified at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (**UNCED**) held at Rio de Janeiro. The UNCCD was adopted on 17 June 2004. The UNCCD entered into force on 26 December 1996, which was 90 days after the fiftieth ratification of the convention. There are currently 194 parties to the UNCCD, 15 of which are Pacific Island Countries.

The UNCCD's objective is to “combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification.”<sup>2</sup> The UNCCD further sets out that achieving this objective will involve:

*long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and*

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<sup>1</sup> “Desertification” is defined in Article 1 of the UNCCD as *land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities.*

<sup>2</sup> Article 2 of the UNCCD. Available at: <http://www.unccd.int/convention/text/convention.php?annexNo=-1#art2>.

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*sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.*<sup>3</sup>

Parties affected by desertification in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Northern Mediterranean are required to implement National Action Programmes. For parties in other regions affected by desertification, the implementation of a National Action Programme (or other measures to combat desertification) is optional. Parties to the convention that are developed countries have an obligation to assist affected countries by providing financial support and technical expertise. Even though the Pacific Island Countries are not affected by desertification, the UNCCD is relevant because it is concerned with Sustainable Land Management (SLM).

### **Strategy for effective participation at COP10**

Effective participation at COP10 by the Pacific Island Countries was discussed at the Pacific UNCCD COP10 preparatory workshop. The Pacific UNCCD COP10 preparatory workshop was attended by a number of participants including senior government representatives from Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Lands and Environment and National Sustainable Land Management Project Coordinators. During the workshop, a Chair/Coordinator and Co-Chair for the Pacific Island Countries has been appointed to coordinate the PICs' participation at COP10.

It is important to note that the Pacific UNCCD COP10 preparatory workshop, the participants considered that the key agenda items that were identified as priorities for the PIC's were: 6(a) & (b), 7 and 8(b).

This brief should be read together with the Pacific UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Meeting Report and the Outcome Statement as the two documents reflect the needs and issues identified in the workshop that formed the possible positions proposed for consideration.

Taking note of the arrangement of the COP10 meeting, there are four meetings to take place during the COP10 namely:

- CRIC 10
- CST 10
- High-level segment and
- COP 10

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<sup>3</sup> Article 2, point 2 of the UNCCD. Available at:  
<http://www.unccd.int/convention/text/convention.php?annexNo=-1#art2>.

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 5</b></p> <p><b>Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, admission of observers</b></p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The involvement of Civil Society Organisations (<b>CSOs</b>), such as NGOs and other major groups, in UNCCD is encouraged and their involvement therefore is regulated under the Convention.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant papers:</b></p> <p><b>Relevant regional documents and papers:</b></p> <p>Report from the Pacific Regional UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Workshop 29 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 (Regional Workshop Report).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compared with other UN Conventions (for example the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity), the status and participatory role of CSO's in the meetings differ slightly. In the UNCCD, CSOs are given observer role only. However, their involvement in UN Conventions are based on some common key criteria (refer to page 10 of Document ICCD/COP(10)29).</li> <li>• In this agenda item, elements that would encourage a more effective and widespread participation of CSOs were identified for consideration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>The Regional Workshop Report (at page 17) noted the importance of having NGOs' support at the national level in terms of supporting policy frameworks and capacity building. Further discussions are required within PICs to consider how much these entities should be involved in the global consultation process.</p>	
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p>Some belief that CSOs should be able to provide text proposals (endorsed by governments) to be considered in a similar fashion to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Additionally there was some support for the availability for accredited organisations to address the conference if the Chair allows (as is permitted under the</p>	

UNFCCC).

Lead country/Point person for Issue:

**Agenda Item and issue:**

**Item 6 (a)**

**The 10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)**

**Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties**

**Relevant papers:**

ICCD/CST(S-2)/9

**ICCD/COP(10)CST/1**

**Relevant regional documents and papers:**

Report from the Pacific Regional UNCCD

**Brief background**

- Under this agenda item, the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology (the **CST Report**) on its second special session will be reviewed (available at 10 ICCD/CST(S-2)/9).

- The CST Report presented a summary of ideas, suggestions and proposals offered by various parties during the ninth Committee on Science and Technology (**CST**) meeting.

- The CST Report generally discusses issues on development and implementation of Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of *The 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the implementation of the Convention 2008-2018 (the Strategy)*. These objectives relate to:

- Improving the living conditions of affected populations;
- Improving the condition of affected

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<p>COP10 Preparatory Workshop 29 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 (Regional Workshop Report).</p>	<p>ecosystems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Generating global benefits through implementation of the UNCCD; and</li><li>○ Mobilising resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors.</li></ul> <p>•The CST Report also attempts to address the issues of knowledge management systems and measures for consideration in order for the UNCCD to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD).</p> <p>• The CST Report identifies potential action that could be undertaken at the national, subregional, regional and international levels subject to the COP’s consideration and decisions.</p> <p>• Note: The CST10 meeting and the CRIC10 meeting are held concurrently and are where key decisions are drafted for consideration in the COP10 meeting.</p>
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>The Regional Workshop Report (at page 23) identified that this agenda item was relevant for PICs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in the development of National Action Plans;</li><li>• as there is a need to increase the number of Pacific members on the CST, specifically those with scientific background.</li></ul> <p>Furthermore the workshop attendees identified (at Page 18) of the Regional Workshop Report there was a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• review the definition of “in affected countries” to incorporate vulnerable low lying islands (atolls) and coastal areas (in paragraph 48 of the CST Report); and</li><li>• mainstream the indicators across all Rio Conventions (paragraph 49 of the CST Report).</li></ul>	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important for PICs that clear indicators exist to provide guidance on meeting the objectives of the Strategy at the national level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Possible Position</b></p> <p>PICs may wish to consider raising these identified issues under this agenda items based on the technical needs identified in the Regional Workshop Report and the Meeting Statement within that report.</p>
<p><b>Lead country/Point person for Issue:</b></p>

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 (b)</b></p> <p><b>The 10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)</b></p> <p><b>Review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties</b></p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (<b>CRIC</b>) held its ninth meeting (<b>CRIC 9</b>) early 2011 and produced its report (the <b>CRIC Report</b>) to be reviewed in COP10.</li> <li>The CRIC Report reflects conclusions and recommendations that summarises ideas, suggestions and proposals offered by various delegations during the CRIC 9 meeting to further the implementation of the Convention and the <i>The 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the implementation of the Convention 2008-2018 (the Strategy)</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant papers</b></p> <p>ICCD/CRIC(9)/16</p> <p>ICCD/CRIC(10)/1</p> <p><b>Relevant COP Decisions</b></p> <p>Decision 11/COP.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At CRIC 9 the Strategy's following key operational objectives were discussed:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy, awareness raising and education;</li> <li>Policy framework;</li> <li>Science, technology and knowledge;</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

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<p>Decision 13/COP.9</p> <p><b>Relevant regional documents and papers:</b></p> <p>Report from the Pacific Regional UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Workshop 29 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 (Regional Workshop Report).</p> <p>Pacific Regional Environment Programme Strategic Plan 2011-2015.</p> <p>SPC and the Pacific Plan, July 2010 – June 2011: Achievements, Challenges and Targets.</p>	<p>4. Capacity building; and 5. Financing and technology transfer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At CRIC 9, other key implementation aspects were discussed including best practices, procedures for communication of information procedures and reporting formats, procedures/institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in the review of the implementation of Convention and input from CST.</li> <li>• Conclusions and recommendations are available at ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, Page 8 and summary provided below:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The Assessment of implementation of the Convention against the performance indicators</li> <li>(b) The review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention</li> <li>(c) The consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention</li> <li>(d) The improvement of the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP</li> <li>(e) The additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention; and</li> <li>(f) The review of input from the CST</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Note: The CST10 meeting and the CRIC10 meeting are held concurrently and are where key decisions are drafted for consideration in the COP10 meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>It appears that the majority of the discussion at the Pacific Regional UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Workshop revolved around this agenda item. The Implementation of the Convention is of particular relevance to PICs as it addresses elements such as capacity building, policy, finance and technical needs (see page 18-24, Regional Workshop</p>	

Report).

The Meeting Statement from the Regional Workshop Report provides a basis for the plenary statement, as well as an overview on all subject matters discussed under this agenda item, including:

1. Advocacy, awareness raising and education;
2. Policy framework;
3. Science, technology and knowledge;
4. Capacity building; and
5. Financing and technology transfer.

**Possible Position:**

PIC positions around the various topics of this agenda item are outlined in the table in the Regional Workshop report (pages 18-24) and the Meeting Statement (page 45-47 of the Regional Workshop Report).

**Lead country/Point person for Issue:**

**Agenda Item and issue:**

**Item 6 (c)**

**The 10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)**

**Mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention**

**Brief background**

- Regional coordination and support is an important component in the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy. It is recognised that this coordination must be responsive to the needs, capacities and specific issues of the regions.

- In this agenda item, focus is on the actions taken in facilitating regional coordination. Parties may be asked to consider additional actions for regional coordination to be taken.

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<p><b>Relevant papers:</b></p> <p>ICCD/COP(10)21</p> <p>Decision 3/COP.9</p> <p><b>Relevant regional documents and papers:</b></p> <p>Report from the Pacific Regional UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Workshop 29 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 (Regional Workshop Report).</p> <p>/</p>	
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>The Meeting Statement in the Regional Workshop Report provides a series of points around why this agenda item is so important to PICs. Primarily, regional coordination supports cooperation among affected parties (PICs included) and also supports countries through provision of technical assistance (for example in NAP process).</p>	
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p>PICs may wish to indicate the importance of regional coordination in enhancing the effective implementation of the Convention at a country level. Page 47 of the Regional Workshop Report identifies five key points relating to regional support are required to enhance the implementation of the Convention such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The need to strengthen regional reference centres to provide long-term technical and policy assistance;</li><li>2. Increased recognition of the role of Sub-regional Action Plans to support the development and alignment of National Action Plans (NAPs).</li></ol>	
<p><b>Lead country/Point person for Issue:</b></p>	

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 (d)</b></p> <p><b>The 10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)</b></p> <p><b>Review of the progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy</b></p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), a review on the Comprehensive Communication Strategy (CCS) was made.</li> <li>• A revised communication strategy is available on the UNCCD website (see Relevant papers).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant papers:</b></p> <p>Comprehensive Communication Strategy. Drylands: Global Assets. Available at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.unccd.int/convention/docs/css%20rev.pdf">http://www.unccd.int/convention/docs/css%20rev.pdf</a></p> <p>ICCD/COP(10/7 and ICCD/CRIC(10)11</p>	
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>Effective communication tools need to be in place to ensure the transfer and uptake of information to remote regions (applicable to many Pacific Island Countries). An effective communication strategy is fundamental to the implementation of the Convention.</p>	
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p>There is a need to increase the assistance for the development of integrated national level data and information systems (especially data collection, storage, dissemination and management). Also there is a need to strengthen the traditional and environmental information and knowledge management aspects of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought.</p>	
<p><b>Lead country/Point person for Issue:</b></p>	

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 (e)</b></p> <p><b>The 10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018)</b></p> <p><b>Revised procedures for the participation of civil society organisations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification</b></p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The agenda item focuses on the revised procedures for the participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in UNCCD meetings and processes.</li><li>• CSOs play a crucial role in enhancing the effective implementation of the COP (page 5 ICCD/COP/5).</li><li>• To ensure a more balanced and effective participation of CSOs, conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the COP for consideration.</li></ul>
<p><b>Relevant regional documents and papers:</b></p> <p>Decision 5/COP.9</p>	
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>In the Pacific, at the national, regional and international level, CSOs plays an important role in delivering a number of programmes that contribute to the implementation of the Convention (related to points given in the Regional Workshop Report, page 17).</p>	
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p>Given their support roles to PICs, PICs may wish to give support to CSOs' participation in UNCCD processes (see conclusion and recommendation section of ICCD/COP(10)/5, particularly paragraph 25(c) on the provision of funding by developed countries, international and financial organisations to ensure CSOs' participation).</p>	

Lead country/Point person for Issue:

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 7(a)</b></p> <p><b>Program and budget</b></p> <p><b>Program and budget for the biennium 2012-2013</b></p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed budget responds to the 10 year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018).</li> <li>• The agenda item presents an overview of the proposed budget of the UNCCD for the biennium 2012-2013.</li> <li>• The 2012-13 Convention budget proposal is built on the resource needs relating to the implementation of the workplans and more specifically on delivering the main outputs and work packages during that two year period.</li> <li>• The proposed budget in document ICCD/COP(10)7 (for this agenda item) should be considered together with the following costed two year programmes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Secretariat;</li> <li>ii) CST;</li> <li>iii) CRIC; and</li> <li>iv) Global Mechanism (GM).</li> </ul>             It should also be read in conjunction with the information on financial and programme performance for the biennium 2010-2011 of the secretariat, CST, CRIC, and the GM.           </li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant papers:</b></p> <p>ICCD/COP(10)/8ICCD/COP(10)/9, ICCD/COP(10)/10, ICCD/COP(10)/11, ICCD/COP(10)/12, ICCD/COP(10)/13, ICCD/COP(10)/14, ICCD/COP(10)/15</p> <p><b>Relevant regional documents and papers:</b></p> <p>Report from the Pacific Regional UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Workshop 29 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 (Regional Workshop Report).</p>	

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<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>The agenda item is important for PICs as it is here where the budget proposal for the resource requirements for the work programmes of the secretariat, the GM, the CST and the CRIC will be presented. The Meeting Statement basically provides a platform for PICs issues to be considered where relevant in this agenda item.</p>	
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p>The Meeting Statement from Regional Workshop Report (at page 46) could provide a basis for the plenary statement and basis for negotiations in relation to this agenda item. The main points to focus on may include (amongst other points in the Meeting Statement):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the importance of funding for PIC participation at the CRIC, COP and CST meetings;</li> <li>• the acknowledgment that resources are a limiting factor for PICs to prepare and participate in UNCCD forums; and</li> <li>• the unpredictability of financial resources for PIC participation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Lead country/Point person for Issue:</b></p>	

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 8(a)</b></p> <p>Implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 of decision 6/COP.9</p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial mobilisation is the focus of the agenda item. Deliberation will focus on the report progress on the implementation of decision 6/COP(10).9 paragraph 1-3 and</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Relevant papers:</b></p> <p>Decision 6/COP.9 found in ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1</p> <p><b>Relevant regional documents/papers</b></p> <p>Report from the Pacific Regional UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Workshop 29 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 (Regional Workshop Report).</p>	<p>5-8 (joint reports by Secretariat and Global Mechanism).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The total cost estimate against total work programme with priorities identified for the period 2012-2013 in regions were summarised in this agenda item.</li><li>• It is noted that support from the Secretariat and Global Mechanism is crucial for resource mobilisation to allow affected countries to carry out national actions.</li></ul> <p>(page 3-11 ICCD/COP 910 0/4)</p>
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>Finance is very important to PICs to enable them to implement their activities under the Convention. It is important that they understand how this financial mobilisation for priorities for the next 2012-2013 meets their priorities and needs at the national and regional level.</p>	
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p>PICs may wish to reflect on the Meeting Statement on Financial flows (page 47 of the Regional Workshop Report) which focuses on recognising and advocating the need to explore new, additional and innovative channels of financial support to support traditional funding sources, including support for regional institutions for capacity support.</p>	
<p><b>Lead country/Point person for Issue:</b></p>	

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 8(b)</b></p> <p><b>Evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism</b></p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This agenda item focuses mainly on the evaluation of the Global Mechanism (GM) in its implementation of decision 6/COP 9.</li> <li>• The GM was established as a supporting mechanism under the Conference of the Parties to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms. It was intended to also enhance financial mobilisation and substantial financial sources. Under the operational objectives of the Strategy, the GM focuses mainly on operational objective 5 (financing and technology transfer) (ICCD/COP(10)/4).</li> <li>• Supporting NAPs is the GM's primary function (ICCD/COP(10)/5, page 14).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant papers</b></p> <p>ICCD/COP (10)/INF.2</p> <p><b>Relevant regional documents and papers:</b></p> <p>Report from the Pacific Regional UNCCD COP10 Preparatory Workshop 29 August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 (Regional Workshop Report).</p>	
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>The Global Mechanism is crucial in that it is a funding mechanism that supports the activities/programmes to be implemented under the Convention. At page 45 of the Regional Workshop Report, there was a call by PICs to the Global Mechanism to make NAP alignment a priority in their work plans in order to support PICs to meet the 2014 target for the 10-year strategic plan.</p>	
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p>The GM's support is crucial to the development and implementation of NAPs. It is also important in supporting the implementation of the operational objectives of the strategy such as financing and technology transfer.</p>	
<p><b>Lead country/Point person for Issue:</b></p>	

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 10 (a)</b></p> <p><b>Outstanding Items</b></p> <p><b>Rule 47 of the rules of procedure</b></p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule 47 of the Rules of procedure clarifies how the COP should operate during its deliberations.</li> <li>• The issue with this agenda item is based on the voting majority required for the adoption of decisions by the COP. The rule of majority rule has not been agreed and therefore has not been changed since COP 9 (ICCD/COP 9/12).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant papers:</b></p> <p>ICCD/COP 3/13</p> <p>ICCD/COP 8/6</p> <p>ICCD/COP 9/12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A text in brackets (index to ICCD/COP 3/13) may be presented to the COP for consideration by the parties taking into account the background information provided and the submissions by parties and international agencies on Rule 47 of the rules of procedure in order for them to reach agreement and remove the text in brackets.</li> <li>• There are also alternative solutions presented in the document ICCD/COP(10)/23 (pg. 3) for parties' consideration</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>The rule of majority vote is crucial because it will always have an impact on the decisions made on the issues deliberated, particularly those contentious issues that may present the COP with impossible consensus. It is important for PICs to begin to assess their position on the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) whether there should be an adoption of the principle of consensus on all matters of substance;</li> <li>b) whether there should be circumstances when reaching an agreement by a simple</li> </ol>	

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<p>or qualified majority when it is impossible to reach a decision by consensus;</p> <p>c) determining which decisions should be reached by consensus and which by majority vote;</p> <p>d) whether the decision on this agenda item should be deferred to a future COP session.</p>
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p><i>Position is unclear. PIC's need to assess if there are any circumstances where they believe there are any decisions or circumstances where they believe reaching decision by consensus is not necessary and a mere simple or qualified majority is acceptable. PICs should be wary of the limited number of countries included in their negotiating block and understand that if majority decisions are permitted, decisions may be implemented that PICs do not agree with.</i></p>
<p><b>Lead country/Point person for Issue:</b></p>

<p><b>Agenda Item and issue:</b></p> <p><b>Item 10 (b)</b></p> <p><b>Outstanding items</b></p> <p><b>Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation</b></p>	<p><b>Brief background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolution to the questions on implementation of the Convention (Article 27) is the focus of this agenda item. Examination and comparisons of the same matters in other relevant environmental conventions were made and recommendations were developed for consideration in the COP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Relevant papers:</b></p> <p>ICCD/COP 9/13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts (AHGE) will reconvene in COP 10 to focus on this issue of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation.</li> <li>• A new working document (that will include compilation of submissions by parties on previous COP documents, a</li> </ul>

**PACIFIC UNCCD COP 10 Brief**

	<p>draft to provide options for and terms of reference of, multilateral consultative process and compilation of views by parties on Article 27) to be prepared by the Secretariat will form the basis of the work of the AHGE on the agenda item.</p>
<p><b>Why the issue is important to the Pacific:</b></p> <p>This issue is important as it analyses how to promote proper implementation and adequate compliance by each country with their obligations with the UNCCD. It is important that PICs discuss and identify the difficulties experienced by individual parties in fulfilling their obligations. Furthermore PICs should analyse the problems of implementation faced by the parties to the Convention as a whole.</p> <p>One of the proposed actions is establish a multilateral consultative committee to assist Parties in the resolution of questions on implementation. PICs may wish to consider whether the establishment of such a body (which may develop clear and simple guidelines) would further assist with the implementation of their obligations.</p>	
<p><b>Possible Position:</b></p> <p><i>Unclear, requires further discussion.</i></p>	
<p><b>Lead country/Point person for Issue:</b></p>	

**Annex I**

**List of Pacific Island Countries that are party to UNCCD**

Federated States of Micronesia

Marshall Islands

Niue

Cook Islands

Samoa

Fiji

Kiribati

Tuvalu

Nauru

Tonga

Solomon Islands

Palau

Vanuatu

Papua New Guinea